

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Alexandre Calame (1810 - 1864)

The Vierwaldstättersee seen from above Morschach, Switzerland.

oil on canvas laid on cardboard

15 x 10 ¼ in. (38.4 x 26.4 cm.)

c. 1861

Provenance:

Zürich, Galerie Koller, 17 November 1994, lot 3064

Asbjørn Lunde (1927-2017), New York.

Exhibition:

Alpine Views: Alexandre Calame and the Swiss Landscape, Williamstown, Clark Art Institute, 2006, no. 14, repr. p. 61;

Den ville natur. Sveitisk og norsk romantikk. Malerier fra Asbjørn Lundes samling, New York, Tromsø, Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum and Bergen Billedgalleri, 2007-8, no.16, repr. p. 86;

Forests, Rocks, Torrents: Norwegian and Swiss Landscapes from the Lunde Collection, London, National Gallery, 2011, no. 38, repr. p. 68.

The hamlet of Seelisberg is located on one of Lake Lucerne's promontories. Also referred to as the Vierwaldstättersee, the lake was a favourite haunt of Calame.

The shores of the lake have changed little since this daring and vertiginous view over the cliffs was painted. This oil sketch echoes Caspar David Friedrich's sublime *Cliffs at Rügen* in the Oskar Reinhart Museum in Winterthur which also has an important collection of Calame paintings on public display.